

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of identifying a port in a network address, said method comprising:

providing an address for addressing a device on said network, said address comprising a protocol identifier;

providing a port identifier operable to identify the port on which data should be sent to an end-user device;

including said port identifier and said address as part of an address string.

2. A method of providing an address, said method comprising:

providing a requesting device coupled to a network;

providing an address, said address comprising a protocol identifier;

providing a port identifier, said port identifier operable to identify a port on said requesting device;

including said port identifier as part of said address; and

transmitting said address from said requesting device onto said network.

3. The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

receiving said address at an intermediate device; and

addressing a data provider device while including said port identifier as part of an address string.

4. The method as described in claim 3 and further comprising:

transmitting a message from said data provider to the port of said requesting device identified by said port identifier.

5. A method of providing an address, comprising:

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providing a protocol identifier;
providing an IP identifier;
providing a server identifier; and
providing a server port identifier.

6. The method as described in claim 5 and further comprising:
coupling said protocol identifier with said IP identifier, said server
identifier and said server port identifier.

7. The method as described in claim 5 and further comprising:
providing a file identifier.

8. The method as described in claim 5 and further comprising:
coupling said protocol identifier with said IP identifier, said server
identifier, said server port identifier, and said file identifier.

9. The method as described in claim 8 and further comprising:
organizing said address structure so that said port identifier is adjacent
said server identifier.

10. A method of addressing data on a network, said method comprising:
providing a server;
sending a request for data utilizing a first protocol to an intermediary
device, said first protocol associated with a first port;
receiving said request for data at said intermediary device at said first
port;
interpreting said request for data at said intermediary device;
sending a request for data from said intermediary device utilizing a
second protocol to a content provider, said second protocol associated with a second port;

10 receiving said request for data from said intermediary device at said
11 content provider;
12 obtaining said data with said content provider;
13 sending a message from said content provider to said first port of said
14 server.

1 11. A data structure for a network address, said data structure comprising:
2 a protocol identifier field;
3 a network device identifier field; and
4 a port identifier field.

1 12. The data structure as described in claim 11 wherein said network
2 device identifier field comprises an internet protocol (IP) identifier field.

1 13. The data structure as described in claim 11 and further comprising:
2 a server identifier field.

1 14. The data structure as described in claim 11 and further comprising:
2 a file designation field.

1 15. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:
2 a protocol identifier segment;
3 a network device identifier segment; and
4 a port identifier segment.

1 16. The computer data signal as described in claim 15 wherein said
2 network device identifier segment comprises an internet protocol (IP) identifier segment.

1 17. The computer data signal as described in claim 15 and further
2 comprising:

3 a server identifier segment.

1 18. The computer data signal as described in claim 15 and further
2 comprising:

3 a file designation segment.

1 19. An apparatus for use in a network, said apparatus comprising:
2 a server operable to provide an address for addressing a device on said
3 network;

4 code operable to provide a protocol identifier for use in an address;

5 code operable to provide a port identifier; and

6 code operable to combine said port identifier with said protocol
7 identifier as part of an address string.

1 20. The apparatus as described in claim 19 and further comprising:
2 code operable to provide a network device identifier for use in said
3 address string.

1 21. The apparatus as described in claim 20 and further comprising:
2 code operable to provide an internet protocol (IP) identifier as part of
3 said network device identifier.

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